

## "Pop" Barrett Has "Happy Day"

Reported Via John H. Keifer.

On Sunday, July 21, John E. McCurdy, Mary Kein, Walter Heist, Mrs. Bessie Keifer and myself drove down to "Pop" Barrett's in Essington, Pa. for his Happy Day Program. We arrived about 11:00 A. M. How did we find his place? By the crowd of people outside his lawn, of course, looking over the hedge and fence to view his massive display of miniature circus and carnival models and the model street parade.

"Pop" had his display up and working when we arrived and he must of worked pretty fast to get it in place and had the help of Jim Hassan, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Barrett had his Barrett Circus and Mardi-Gras arranged in fine fashion in three-quarter inch scale. Just to let you know some of the things on display: twenty cars, some of them flat stock and the rest were sleepers of both the Barrett Circus and the Mardi-Gras Shows; one ferris wheel; airplane swing; merry-go-round; seal act which "Pop" had made over the Winter months. All these seals were operating in unison with a large seal in the center balancing a red ball, the smaller seals were balancing objects such as lamps and small balls and parasols. The figures are made to turn completely around. On the Mardi-Gras Shows are also various pitch tents and side-shows, all carnival style with a free high-diving act.

The circus had a big top, menagerie, cook house, side-show and banner line and various circus tents and artticles around the backyard. A large street parade was in progress around the layout. I did not count the wagons in the parade as I was too busy taking pictures and talking to some reporters from New York, and to some visiting members of the CMB&OA from Brooklyn, N. Y., East Orange, N. J., Philadelphia and other places. Sorry I did not get to meet all of you as the crowd that finally came inside the hedge became too great to move around at all. Most of those visitors were friends and neighbors of "Pop's" at Essington.

Hey, news must travel fast, when we arrived twenty or more people standing outside the yard but when the big electrical show came off, about 1500 people had viewed the display and the side yard was jammed to see "Pop" Barrett electrocute "Mom" Barrett by high-frequency juice. All those present came by word of mouth, as there was no previous announcement. Well, about 3:00 P. M. the flag on the cookhouse went up, so the group made a run on the dining top. We had plenty of good cats with soft drink and peanuts for all.

Well, the crowd outside was waiting to see the electrical show, so we, too, went outside to witness the electrocution of "Mom." There were several demonstrations of the electrical device, but when it was "Mom" Barrett's turn the poor machine burned itself out. Maybe it was for the best. "Pop" had his blood-pressure up plenty high in that big crowd so maybe that helped to short out the machine. Some other day he will put on this show for the visitors when he gets it repaired.



The musical system was worked out swell with four turntables and pickup with amplifier units and four concealed speakers. One is in the big top playing circus music, one is in the calliope in the street parade, one is in the Mardi-Gras side-show and the other is in the Hoop-La on the midway. "Pop" had a portable mike and a new public address system, and members had their say regarding the mammoth display.

Did I say news travels fast? Well, about 5:00 P. M. who should drive up but a photographer from the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. I wonder who told them about the layout! I wonder!

Now, a little about the winter-quarters of the shows. He has a very nice workshop, no elaborate tools or machinery. Most all hand tools. Where does "Pop" store his display over the winter? Most of it is fastened down to baseboards and six of these sections make a box, so when all these sections are in place no dirt, dust or prying hands can get at the models. These boxes are then placed on shelves in "Pop's" garage or hung from rafters in the basement. The wagons that need any repairs are relegated to the workshop for a going-over.

Just before lunch was served Mrs Barrett called all the Circus Fans and CMB&OA members together for a group picture. Then we sang "Happy Birthday" to him as "Mom" presented to "Pop" a very fine diamond ring.

Well, about 6:30 P. M. it looked like rain, so the cookhouse flag came down and all hands started to take apart the equipment lest the rain come down in torrents as it did last year. "Just put it in the garage or basement" was the order from the Lot Supt. J. W. Barrett. We then chewed the fat for a while and planned what could be done next year. With a reminder of the coming storm in the form of lightening we darted into John McCurdy's auto and started for home. We made good time and hit the rain at Chester. Arriving back home safe, tired but happy, we thank the Barrett family for a really pleasant time.

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The Leonard S. Aylesworth Ring members certainly enjoyed themselves at the First Annual Picnic of the Emmitt Kelly Top, CFA., at Hagerstown, Md., last Sunday, August 4th. We had models on display in the beautiful city Park, and then after dinner we were assembled in the auditorium of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts where we became better acquainted with each other and prizes were awarded for various entries in the day's activities. New member Jack Martin of Martinsburg, W. Va., was on hand and showed movies he had taken while he was in service on Tinian Island in the Pacific theater. Russell T. Warner showed movies of circus lore and we had to leave the auditorium and get back to the picnic tables for another round of swell eats. Dick Kline of Indiana, Penna. was among those present. He is a late member, just joining the CMB&OA.

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Let's have more of these gatherings. You fellows who live near each other can get up some novel ideas if you just look up the list of members in your lot, and write to them expressing a desire to hold one of these meetings, you will be surprised to find out what can be done in the few hours you are in contact with CMB&OA members.



# Fun - Frolic at Leonard S. Aylesworth Ring Picnic at Arch Shuey's

Early Sunday Morning, July 7, 1946, Lynn Alan Zimmerman, Mary Keim Ella Wagner and I journeyed to Annville, Penna. to the home of Arch and Polly Shuey to hold our first annual picnic of the Leonard S. Aylesworth Ring. Stopping at Johnny Keifer's home in Hummelstown we picked up Mrs. Bessie Keifer and son John and their lunch baskets and proceeded to the center of Annville and followed the circus markings on the telephone poles to the Arch Shuey Lot.

Russ Warner on his way down had marked some poles for the rest of the expected picnickers. The Warners, Russ and Mildred, Walter and Kitty Heist were already enjoying themselves when our car arrived on the scene. We unloaded the baskets and boxes of picnic goodies and built a table for the group and then instead of eating as is our usual custom, we browsed around the Shuey grounds and enjoyed the cool breeze blowing across the Shuey veranda. In this interval the Warners, H. Russell and Claire, arrived accompanied by Charles and Arletta Roundtree.

Hamburg was the main meat course on the picnic table due to the shortage of "hot dogs". Mildred Warner assisted by Mary Keim and Kitty Heist made a large kettle of lemonade which disappeared in six minutes flat. Then Claire Wagner set her jug of orangeade in place. Need it be said that after that meal the gang took a walk to get rid of that full feeling. Well, some of the members elected to go for a walk and then a swim, while others decided to go fishing. Those who did go swimming got more for their time than us who were fishing. All of us were skunked (and Shuey said there was fish in thar').

Polly Shuey showed the ladies how she could make the opposite bank of the pond and back without losing her breath. It was done by using long sweeping crawl strokes which pushed her through the water fast.

After a short rest on the porch the games and contests began, and the winners are hereby noted:

## CHILDREN

Peanut Scramble . . . . .	Tommy Shuey
Ballon Bursting . . . . .	Lynn Alan Zimmerman
Driving Croquet Ball . . . . .	George Shuey
100 ft. Race. . . . .	Lynn Alan Zimmerman
Tug of War. . . . .	Lynn Alan Zimmerman & Tommy Shuey

## WOMEN

Most & Fastest Talking.....	Tie, Mildred Warnery, Polly Shuey
Peanut Scramble.....	Claire Wagner
Ballon Bursting.....	Kitty Heist
Driving Croquet Ball.....	Claire Wagner
50 foot Race.....	Arletta Roundtree
Tug-of-War.....	Mary Keim, Ella Wagner, Polly Shuey and Kitty Heist.



### MEN

Peanut Scramble.....Walter Heist  
Ballon Bursting.....Russ Wagner  
Most & Fastest Talking.....Russ Wagner (Gabby Wagner)  
Tug-of-War.....John Keifer, Russ Wagner and  
Chuck Roundtree  
Driving Croquet Ball.....John McCurdy  
100 ft. Race.....Arch Shuey  
Booby Prize.....Russell T. Warner

We then had the evening meal and after two hours of showing movies we left for home a good time being shared by all.

Billy Ben Shuey was too small to take part in the day's activities but his daddy says "wait until next year".

Prizes and fun for all, total cost \$5.00; who says you cannot have a good time unless you spend lots of money?

by John E. McCurdy.

### THE WOMEN SPEAK

At long last, our Ringmaster has decreed that the women may have the floor. At the regular meetings of the Leonard S. Aylesworth Ring the women are the silent partners - believe it or not! That is, insofar as their actual meetings are concerned - we leave them strictly alone.

The hostess usually has all advance preparations made for the lunch, so while we, (the members of the Mildred G. Aylesworth Auxiliary) help her with the last minute details, we have a very informal meeting discussing the good time we had on some lot, or at a picnic or anticipating the fun we expect to have at some future event.

When "the flag goes up" the meeting of the Ring is recessed without hesitation and then, after a while, the men sit back, looking very contented and remark "A good time was had by all".

Seriously I do wish that all the Rings would have the firm support of their wives, Mothers, sisters, etc. so they, too, could have an Aux. to help them in their planning and their good times.

I realize that the Auxiliary seemed to fade from the picture during the war years but now that we are again settling ourselves in the regular routine of living, we can once more enjoy outside interests and sociability.

In the near future, I am going to contact all former members of the Auxiliary to have their reactions as to whether they would like to resume the organization to work along with the National Organization of the Circus Model Builders & Owners Assoc. After we get their reaction we will send out an appeal to the entire membership. Anybody having any thoughts on this matter, please send them along. worth Aux.

By Mildred M. Warner - President, Mildred Ayles-